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L E T T E R
TO A
FRIEND in the COUNTRY,
ON THE
S U B J E C T
OF THE
SEW BILL.

L O N D O N:
Printed for C. CORBETT, in *Fleet-street.*

*76-766

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FRIEND in the COUNTRY

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London:

Price of 1/- Corrected, in Half-Year.

L E T T E R

T O A

FRIEND in the COUNTRY.

SIR,

I Received your kind Letter, i. e. kind, as it relates to me ; but how you came to be in such great Wrath with his Majesty King George, and the Lords and Commons of Great Britain, is to me very surprising ; especially, as you have been wont to speak in Raptures of his present Majesty, and his Royal Father, and to drink to the glorious and immortal Memory of the great and gallant Nassau,

*The Hero that sav'd us,
When France had enslav'd us, &c.*

B

A9

As we sung together on the 4th of November, many Years ago. That saved us from Ruin and Destruction in his own Time, and secured our religious and civil Liberties, by the Succession in this illustrious Protestant Family, as you and I then hoped, for Ages to come, and give me Leave to say, that I continue to hope and pray (whatever you do) that the Succession may continue in this Family till the Calling of the Jews, and the Restoration of all Things.

On this Occasion I must ask you, whether his Majesty's giving his Assent to the Bill, ' for permitting Persons professing the Jewish Religion to be naturalized by Parliament, &c.' has lost him all your Esteem and Favour? I hope not.

Can it enter into your Head, my good Sir, that the Right Reverend Prelates, who voted for this Bill, would not strenuously have opposed it, had they had any Suspicion that the Christian Religion in general, or our holy Mother the Church of England in particular, could have been brought into any Danger thereby.

Surely Men so venerable for their Piety, Learning and Experience, cannot but with the

the greatest Injustice be supposed capable of betraying the Church, in this or any other Respect.

Or is it possible that a Majority of the other Peers and Commoners should be bribed to pass an Act so very destructive to the Religion and Interest of their Country, as some Bigots or disaffected Persons would have you believe? I own I am not so credulous and fearful. I firmly believe the Majority of both Houses love their Country, and are steadily pursuing its Interests; and think it impossible that a great Man you point at (whom I esteem a good Man) could influence the three States to do so vile an Act, nor do I in the least think (I write as before God) that he *would*.

But you are alarmed, as if the Laws of *Christ* and his Apostles were about to be repealed, and those of *Moses* and the *Sanhedrim* to be established by a *British* Parliament. Blush, I beseech you!

Have you seen the Act you so condemn? By your Silence I presume you have not. You was but a few Years since, a Man of great Charity and Benevolence; there was nothing harsh or cruel in your Temper; but by the bad Company you have kept, you

are so strangely changed, that one would be tempted to think, you had been bred under the Followers of that incarnate Devil *St. Dominic*, the Father of the Inquisition. Nay, that you could with dry Eyes and a flinty Heart, behold a poor *Jew*, for no other Cause but his being a *Jew*, roasting by the Fire at *Lisbon* for three Quarters of an Hour, and then taking off your Hat with great Glee, bleſs God that an agonizing Death in *this* World, had consigned an Enemy of the Cross, to eternal Burnings in the *other*. Be astonished O ye Heavens! is this Christianity? Can a Protestant behold such a Sight, but with Abhorrence and Detestation? The Religion of *Jesus* is Meekness and Love in its utmost Extent, and a Christian without Charity, had better be a *Jew*, a *Mahometan*, a *Pagan*, or an *Hottentot*.

Now, Sir, to remove your Prejudices: As to the Effect the A&t may have on the Trade, Rights or Liberties of Christian Subjects, I send you the A&t itself, and the printed Observations thereon, which I persuade myself will have great Weight with you, but you must enlarge your Thoughts a little, for at present, though you have never been out of your own Country, you seem to behave toward *Jews*, as if you had lived all your Lifetime at *Amſterdam* or *Venice*, and knew every *Jew*

Jew there to be such an one as *Shylock* in the Merchant of *Venice*; yea, you continue to think as we did at School, that Jews have an unhappy Cast in their Eyes, and cannot spit from them, because their Forefathers spit upon our blessed Saviour; pray throw off such childish Imaginations, has not every Race of Men somewhat peculiar about them? Don't we say, at first Sight, such an one is a *Spaniard*, a *Portuguese*, a *Frenchman*? Nay, a *Scotch* or *Irishman* has a *Je ne sc̄ai quoy* about him, by which his Country is often (I will not say always) known: But to go to *Lisbon*, and let ten Jews and ten Portuguese be alike drest, and I will defy you, without the Spirit of Divination, to know one from the other. I will go farther with you. I have seen Jews in the Synagogue, that upon Change I should have thought Christians, I once took a very eminent Merchant by the Hand, taking him for a Jew, that I had the Pleasure to dine with some Time before. You have seen no Jews, but Pedlars, that travel the Country with Buckles and Buttons, Garterings, Girdlings, Tapes and Ferrettings; and will you judge of a People by such as these? Do you think that the *Hollanders* are all such Men as the drunken ones, which you and I have seen come on Shore fifty Years ago, when we were playing at *Taw*? What must the Inhabitants of *Bengal* think of Englishmen,

Englishmen, if they imagined them all no other than such as come on Shore for Water in a Long Boat ? I am not ashamed to own to you and all the World, that I am acquainted with a few *Jews*, that I would trust with my Life and Fortune, knowing them to be honest and humane Men. Did you not read the Account of Mr. *Mendez*, who left Money to poor Christians to be laid out in Bibles, mentioning in his Will, that we were all the Children of one God ? Is not his Charity worthy of Imitation ?

That there cannot but be an Enmity between Christians and *Jews*, as Things now stand, is certain ; for there is no Doubt but that their Children are taught to hate Christians, as our Parents taught us to hate *Jews*: I am afraid ours is more general. *Roman Catholicks* teach their Children to hate Protestants, and every Sect is taught to hate each other ; but it will not hence follow, when a Man's Hairs are changed, as are yours and mine, that we should not have gained more Understanding and Charity. We should imitate the Deity, who causeth his Sun to shine, and his Rain to fall on the Just and on the Unjust ; whose tender Mercies are over all his Works ; and none but an Atheist will say that *Jews* are the Works of Chance. We should imitate our Saviour *Christ*, who hath

hath said, do unto all Men as you would they should do unto you. I ask but this Text, and from it ask you, that had you been born a *Jew*, which might have been the Case, would you be willing to be dealt with, as you now propose doing by them ?

This is to Purpose : Weigh it well in the Scale of Justice and Reason, and I ask no more of you. Learn Pope's universal Prayer, which is no other than a fine Paraphrase upon the Lord's Prayer.

‘ *Father of all ! in every Age,*
‘ *In every Clime ador'd,*
‘ *By Saint, by Savage, and by Sage,*
‘ *Jehovah, Jove, or Lord!*’

He was said to be a *Roman Catholick*, and yet you see he does not confine the Deity to be the God of Christians only, but brings in *Jews* and *Heathens* as Children of the same Father, by the Words *Jehovah* and *Jove*.

But as you seem to labour under the Want of Charity (just now) permit me to give you another Lessen from Friend *Alexander*.

‘ Let

Blow now an aske the odds of Bill and
 add to the ~~Bill~~ ~~now~~ ~~now~~
 * *Let not this weak, unknowing Hand*
 * *Presume thy Bolts to throw,*
 * *And deal Damnation round the Land,*
 * *On each I. judge thy Foe.*

God forbid we should; let us leave all Judgment to God, unless you will be such an one as a Chaplain to a Spanish Regiment was, who in my Hearing called the Burnings of the Jews in Spain, by the gentle Name of Chastisements, or an Italian Nun, who was pleased to entertain a weak Hope for me and a few Hugonots, but damn'd every Jew, Male and Female, from Dan to Beresheba, from London to Japan, for whom she said there could be no Salvation. From such a Spirit, good Lord deliver you and me!

I now come to show you what Companions you have in objecting against a Bill that the Legislature have made, and as they thought, for the Good of their Country.

First, The Roman Catholick Priests whose Trade is to absolve, but whose Pastime is to sin, who would destroy you and me, and all that don't swallow their Doctrines, however contrary to Sense and Reason. There are Numbers in Christendom who make their Converts

Converts believe they can turn Bread into human Flesh, and forgive Sins; and one of these adulterous Priests has it in his Power by this Means to make you a Cuckold, and forgive your Wife for her Share in it, if he can previously pervert her to the Catholick Faith. These Vermin are piqued that they cannot obtain an Act of Parliament in their Favour, and be at full Liberty to exercise the Popish Religion in a Protestant State; but that you may be able to judge of the Reasons why that Religion, or rather *Artificial Theology*, should not be publickly tolerated in this Kingdom, I refer you to the incomparable Mr. Lock's Letters concerning Toleration.

Secondly, The Tories are Grumblers at this Bill, and indeed at every other Bill that favours of Moderation and Charity. You may remember they objected many Years ago against the naturalizing foreign Protestants, and could High Church have prevented it, there would have been no Weavers at Canterbury or Spittle-Fields. So narrow-soul'd are these Men, that there needs no other Proof to you of their uncharitable Dealings, than to refer you to the Schism-Bill, when an old Woman could not teach A, B, C, to your or my Children, if she was a Dissenter from the established Church. Will you side with these?

Thirdly, The disaffected, i.e. such as are out of Place, have mist their Aim, lost their Expectations in some Shape or other, been disappointed of some Post, or disobliged by Persons in Power; so that they don't like the present Administration, and right or wrong, they oppose all they do. To which I may add,

Fourthly, Hireling Scribblers. These, for a little Bread, will write for or against any Bill depending in Parliament, make a Book, and answer it themselves, (*en payant*, as the French have it) and Monsieur Mesnager in his Memoirs, will tell you what Use he made of these Men, when he came secretly into England to forward the Peace that was agreed upon at London, and ratified at Utrecht. My dear Friend, hearken not to these Men, I beseech you, but love the King, and his hopeful Offspring, and meddle not with those that are given to change.

I could have enlarged on every Thing I have said, but Busines calls me off, and advises me to hasten; yet I cannot but add a few Things, and those very serious ones, to you, whom I esteem not a nominal, but a real Christian; and as such, you cannot (for true Christianity is Love) persecute either

Jew

Jew or *Gentile*; but more especially a *Jew*, who is your elder Brother, of the Seed of *Abraham* the Friend of God. They are God's chosen People. The old Testament is theirs as much as ours, and the New Testament is established by the Old. If the Prophecies in the Old are not fulfilled in the New, on what Foundation doth our Faith stand? I hint these Things to you at your Peril. Pray consider what Use Unbelievers will make of such Proceedings; a cruel, hard-hearted Christian is a Contradiction in Terms; one may as well say, a temperate Drunkard, a chaste Adulterer, an honest Thief, as to say a cruel Christian. Good Christians always pray for *Jews*. If you will allow the old Divines in *Laud*'s tyrannical Domination to be good Christians, (tho' some may think them as bad or worse than *Jews*) some Forms of Prayer that they have left behind them, (before the Name of *Presbyterian* was known) will inform you that they were wont to pray for their Conversion. ‘ O Lord, remember thine ancient People the *Jews*, the Seed of *Abraham* thy Friend; let them look on him whom they have pierced, and mourn; and do thou bring them into the Kingdom of thy dear Son:’ With much more to the same Purpose. But this may be of no Weight

with you ; I will therefore come to modern Times.

Bishop Beveridge died long since you and I were born ; if you examine a noted Book of his, called his private Thoughts on Religion, you will there find that he says, that was he not a Christian, he must be a Jew. I refer you to his Reasons, not having Time to transcribe them. Many who have heard Dr. George Stanhope, the late Dean of Canterbury, preach at Deptford, will tell you, that in his Prayer before Sermon, he was wont to beg of God to call in his antient People the Jews.

The Apostle *Paul*, the most remarkable Convert from *Judaism* to Christianity that ever appeared since our Saviour's Death, had so great a Love for his Brethren, that he had on their Account great Heaviness and continual Sorrow of Heart, as you may read in the 9th of *Rom.* first and second Verses, and he adds at the third Verse, ‘ For I could wish ‘ that myself were accursed from *Christ*, for ‘ my Brethren, my Kinsmen according to ‘ the Flesh :’ And I must desire you to observe, that this was after the Crucifixion ; yet he goes on at the fourth Verse, ‘ Who ‘ are *Israelites* ; to whom pertaineth (mind ‘ the present Tense) the Adoption, and the Glory,

‘ Glory, and the Covenants, and the giving
 ‘ of the Law, and the Service of God, and the
 ‘ Promises.’ Ver. 5. ‘ Whose are the Fathers,
 ‘ and of whom as concerning the Flesh
 ‘ Christ came, who is over all, God blessed
 ‘ for ever.’

You see this holy Apostle, though sent to the *Gentiles*, such as you and I (for some Historians say he was in *Britain*) does not esteem his Brethren to be such an accursed Race as you (and *Westley*) esteem them. Again, mark what he says in *Corinthians* Chap. ii. Ver. 7, and 8. ‘ We speak the Wisdom of God in a Mystery, even the hidden Wisdom which God ordained before the World unto our Glory; which none of the Princes of this World knew:’ For had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of Glory. These are most remarkable Words; and if you can be a Persecutor of *Jews* 1700 Years after the Fact, when it had been ordained before the Foundation of the World: Well and good. I have not so learned *Christ*. Now observe what the Apostle *Peter* says, speaking to the *Jews*, *Acts* of the Apostles, chap. iii. ver. 14. ‘ Ye denied the holy One, and the Just, and desired a Murderer to be granted unto you.’ ver. 15. ‘ And killed the Prince of Life,’ and so on. But at the 17th Verse,

Verse, he clears them, as I conceive, from a wilful deliberate Crime, as to this most important Fact. ‘ And now, Brethren, I wot
 ‘ that through Ignorance ye did it, as did
 ‘ also your Rulers :’ and adds at the 18th Verse, ‘ But those Things which God before
 ‘ had shewed by the Mouth of all his Pro-
 ‘ phets, that *Christ* should suffer, he hath so
 ‘ fulfilled.’ What will you say to this? Can we reconcile the Decrees of God? No; holy, just, and good, we know they are, and we must adore him in profound Silence. At the 25th Verse, he tells the *Jews*, ‘ that in
 ‘ the Seed of *Abraham* all the Kindreds of
 ‘ the Earth shall be blessed.’ Above all, our Saviour’s own Words ought to have the greatest Weight with his professed Followers.
Luke xxiii. 34. when hanging on the Cross; instead of imprecating his Father’s Wrath on his bloody Crucifiers, and saying, let my Followers in *Spain* and *Portugal* destroy, burn and extirpate for Ages to come, the Offspring of my Executioners, he passionately prays, ‘ Father forgive them, (the Execu-
 ‘ tioners themselves) for they know not what
 ‘ they do.’

This Text has many times occurred to my Memory, when I have heard false Christians (as all are who do not depart from Iniquity) to curse and damn the *Jewish* Race (as we say)

say) by wholesale. How diametrically opposite is this to the Spirit of our great Law-giver, who hath positively commanded us to love our Enemies, and pray for them who despitefully use us!

To reconcile the Decrees of God in this, or indeed in other respects, we cannot; but I conceived we may safely say from the holy Scriptures, that they were instrumental to bring about our Salvation. For we find in *Act*s* ii. Verse 23.* these most remarkable Words; ‘Him, being delivered by the determinate Counsel and Foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked Hands have crucified and slain.’ This Text let Divines explain. I bring it only to prove that the Fact was; determined by, and known to God; and he will cause all things to work together for good upon the whole; we are to leave Vengeance to him.

All Christians who examine into their Faith, and don’t trust to artificial Theology, must believe from the sacred Writings, that before the second coming of Christ, the Jews will be brought into the Pale of the Christian Church; but how or when this is to be done, we know not. Some good Men have taken upon them to fix the *Time*, and found themselves mistaken. They have
con-

conjectured likewise about the *Method* that God may use to bring it about. Many Texts have been brought to prove this great Event, and that their Tribulation shall not end till they be converted. One says, ‘ It is to be wrought by taking away the Vail from their Hearts, which is to be the internal Cause of their Conversion ; the external Cause may be the ordinary Administration of God in the preaching of the Word, or by Miracle, as was in the Conversion of Saint *Paul*. If objected, how such a Vision could be manifested to the *Jews* dispersed in several Parts of the World. I could answer, that a Vision or Apparition in Heaven may be seen to the greatest Part of the World at the same Time, as Stars and Comets are, &c.’ Learned *Mede*.

Dr. *Scatt* tells us concerning the *Jews*, that, ‘ notwithstanding they have been a thousand Times over, conquered, slaughtered and oppressed, and do to this Day continue scattered over the Face of the whole Earth. God hath preserved them by a strange and unparalleled Providence for above 1600 Years together, a distinct and separate People from all the Nations of the Earth, to shew his mighty Power in them, and once more to render them, what they have always been, the Subjects of his miraculous

'culous Conduct.' Pray attend to this; Jews are Subjects of God's miraculous Conduct. Will you take upon you to say, that even this Bill may not in some hidden, unknown Way to us, tend to open their Eyes. Who knows what Effect their Marriages with Christians may have? I have seen Dr. *Patrick's* Christian Sacrifice lying open in a Jew's House, and was greatly surprised, till the Man told me he had married a Christian Woman. That some eminent Jews have subscribed to the Sermons and Works of our Divines, I know to be fact, particularly, to the Works of Dr. *Foster*, that great Man, whose Apotheasm Mr. *Pope* so much admired, viz. 'Where Mystery begins, Religion ends.' *Foster* is like Bishop *Hoadly*, a Man of universal Charity.

Dr. *Scott* tells you and me, 'That God will open the Eyes of this blinded Nation, and powerfully convince them of the Error and Wickedness of their Infidelity and Malice against him, whereupon with one Heart and one Mind they shall return to the Lord, and with penitent Tears wash off the Guilt of the Blood of their Saviour, which like an Hair Loom hath hitherto descended upon them from one Generation to another.' He gives you many Texts of Scripture, which you may read out of his

Works, on a Lord's Day Evening, instead of going to a Tavern to drink Confusion to those honest Men, who voted for this Bill. But I mention *Romans xi.* ver. 25, 26. ' And ' all *Israel* shall be saved, &c.' Not a small Remnant. Now if the great, the glorious God will one Day save them all, shall you and I curse them all? *Ezekiel xxxix.* 28th and 29th Verses. ' Then shall they know that I ' am the Lord their God, which caused ' them to be led into Captivity among the ' Heathen; but I have gathered them unto ' their own Land, and have left none of ' them any more there. Neither will I ' hide my Face any more from them, &c.' *Zech. xii. 10.* is so remarkable, that I must transcribe it. ' And I will pour upon the ' House of *David*, and upon the Inhabitants ' of *Jerusalem*, the Spirit of Grace and of ' Supplications, and they shall look upon me ' whom they have pierced, and they shall ' mourn for him, as one mourneth for his ' only Son, and shall be in Bitterness for ' him, as one that is in Bitterness for his ' First-born.' ' And now the *Jews* being ' thus converted by the Power of our Sa- ' viour, shall under his victorious Banner be ' conducted into the holy Land, and re- ' possest of their antient native Country.' But as the transcribing would take up too much Time, I refer you to the Book itself.

Scott's

Scott's Christian Life, concerning *Christ's* regal Acts, chap. 7. and have only to say for myself, that this Letter comes from a Spirit of Love and Meekness. But I will tell you my Thoughts on this Occasion. As to the Bill respecting the Trade or civil Concerns of the Nation, I think the Legislature know and pursue its Interest better than you and I can do. But my private Opinion is, that the more Money and the more Inhabitants we have in *England*, the better; and my Judgment is formed from the Practice of the *Dutch*, who receive all Comers. As to its Influence on the Religion of our Country, I leave it to the good Providence of Almighty God, whose tender Mercies are over all his Works. But sure I am from Reason, God's noblest Gift to Man, as well as from the Word of Revelation, that Persecution and Wrath, and all Bitterness, Strife, Malice, and Ill-will, are all directly contrary to the Religion of Nature, and of *Jesus Christ*. To which I add those admirable Words of the Apostle *Paul*, that though I give my Body to be burned, and have not Charity, it profiteth me nothing. Let Bigots of every Denomination read the whole in *1 Corinthians*, chap. xiii. and persuade themselves to say a hearty Amen to the following Collect in the Common Prayer, which if they can spare Time, they may find in the Office for *Good Friday*.

‘ O merciful God, who hast made all
 Men, and hatest Nothing that thou hast
 made, not wouldest the Death of a Sin-
 ner, but rather that he should be converted
 and live; have Mercy upon all *Jews, Turks,*
Infidels and Heretics, and take from them
 all Ignorance, Hardness of Heart, and Con-
 tempt of thy Word; and so fetch them
 home, blessed Lord, to thy Flock, that
 they may be saved among the Remnant of
 the true *Israelites*, and be made one Fold
 under one Shepherd, *Jesus Christ* our
 Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee
 and the holy Spirit, one God, World with-
 out End. Amen.’

I am, Sir,

September 11,

1753. Your affectionate

Friend and Servant,

PHILANTHROPOS.